

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-9. (withdrawn)

10. (currently amended) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition ~~according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, which is a styrene copolymer reinforced with a rubber polymer, and has an acetone soluble resin component having a monomer composition comprising 5 to 70% by weight of aromatic vinyl monomer, 30 to 95% by weight of unsaturated carboxylic acid alkyl ester monomer, 0 to 50% by weight of vinyl cyanide monomer, and 0 to 50% by weight of another monomer copolymerizable with these monomers, the acid value of the acetone soluble resin component being 0.01 to 1 mgKOH/g,~~ the method comprising melt-blending 10 to 95 parts by weight of a copolymer (A) obtained by polymerizing a vinyl monomer mixture (a), and 90 to 5% by weight of a graft copolymer (B) obtained by graft-polymerizing a vinyl monomer mixture (c) in the presence of a rubber polymer (b), the vinyl monomer mixtures (a) and (c) each being independently a monomer mixture comprising 5 to 70% by weight of (a1) aromatic vinyl monomer, 30 to 95% by weight of (a2) unsaturated carboxylic

acid alkyl ester monomer, 0 to 50% by weight of (a3) vinyl cyanide monomer, and 0 to 50% by weight of (a4) another monomer copolymerizable with these monomers, and containing (a5) substantially no unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer other than the unsaturated carboxylic acid alkyl ester monomer (a2), and the graft copolymer (B) containing 0.1 to 5% by weight of an emulsifier is contained in the graft copolymer (B).

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11. (currently amended) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition according to Claim 10 or Claim 22, wherein during melt blending, the ~~moisture percentage of the graft copolymer (B)~~ has a moisture content of ~~is~~ 0.1% or more by weight and less than 5% by weight.

12. (currently amended) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 10 or Claim 22, wherein the copolymer (A) is obtained by continuous bulk polymerization or continuous solution polymerization of the vinyl monomer mixture (a), and the

graft copolymer (B) is added to the obtained copolymer (A) in a melt state and melt-blended therewith.

13. (currently amended) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition according to Claim 12, further comprising a step of removing residual monomer from the copolymer (A) following ~~removing step after the step of~~ continuous bulk polymerization or continuous solution polymerization of the vinyl monomer mixture (a), and wherein the graft copolymer (B) is added to the copolymer (A) in a melt state in the course of the ~~monomer removing step~~ of removing residual monomer from the copolymer (A) or after the ~~monomer removing step~~ of removing residual monomer from the copolymer (A).

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cont

14. (currently amended) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition according to Claim 13, wherein ~~in adding~~ the graft copolymer (B) is added to the copolymer (A) when ~~the~~ an amount of the residual monomer in the copolymer (A) is 10% by weight or less.

15. (currently amended) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition according to Claim 14, wherein assuming that the actual volume of a melt-blending portion of an apparatus, in which the copolymer (A) and the graft copolymer (B) are transferred while being melt-blended, is  $V$  ( $m^3$ ), the temperature is  $T$  ( $^{\circ}C$ ), and the moving velocity of the resin composition finally discharged is  $v$  ( $kg/h$ ), the following conditions ① and ② are satisfied:

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 $4.60 \times 10^{-6} \text{ (m}^3\text{h/kg)} \leq V/v \leq 11.50 \times 10^{-6} \text{ (m}^3\text{h/kg)} \quad \dots \text{ ①}$

$T \geq 230 \text{ (}^{\circ}C) \quad \dots \text{ ②}$

16. (previously amended) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition according to Claim 13, wherein the graft copolymer (B) added to the copolymer (A) is in a semi-melt or melt state.

17. (currently amended) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition according to Claim 16, wherein the temperature of the graft copolymer (B) ~~supplied to~~

~~the melt blending portion of the apparatus~~ added to the copolymer  
(A) is 100 to 220°C.

18. (currently amended) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 10 or Claim 22, wherein 0.1 to 5% by weight of water relative to the resin composition is added in the course of the ~~step of~~ melt-blending of the copolymer (A) and the graft copolymer (B).

19. (withdrawn)

20. (currently amended) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition according to Claim ~~19~~ 21, wherein the pelletized thermoplastic resin (C) has an average particle diameter of 1 to 10 mm.

21. (currently amended) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition ~~according to Claim 19 or 20~~, comprising mixing in a melt state 90 to 5 parts by weight

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of a graft copolymer (B), obtained by graft-polymerizing a vinyl monomer mixture (c) with a rubber polymer, with 10 to 95 parts by weight of copolymer (A) obtained by continuous bulk polymerization or continuous solution polymerization of a vinyl monomer mixture (a), the vinyl monomer mixtures (a) and (c) each being independently a monomer mixture comprising 5 to 70% by weight of (a1) aromatic vinyl monomer, 30 to 95% by weight of (a2) unsaturated carboxylic acid alkyl ester monomer, 0 to 50% by weight of (a3) vinyl cyanide monomer, and 0 to 50% by weight of (a4) another monomer copolymerizable with these monomers, and containing (a5) substantially no unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer other than the unsaturated carboxylic acid alkyl ester monomer (a2), and the graft copolymer (B) containing 0.1 to 30% by weight of a pelletized thermoplastic resin (C) added and mixed therewith in a melt or semi-melt state, and which is a part or the whole of the resin composition or ~~continuously or intermittently taking out a part or the whole of the resin composition or the copolymer (A) obtained without adding the graft copolymer (B), and reusing the taken out composition or copolymer (A) by adding as the pelletized thermoplastic resin (C) to the graft copolymer (B) and mixing~~

~~therewith~~ in the continuous bulk polymerization or continuous solution polymerization of vinyl monomer mixture (a).

22. (new) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition, which is a styrene copolymer reinforced with a rubber polymer, and has an acetone soluble resin component having a monomer composition comprising 5 to 70% by weight of aromatic vinyl monomer, 30 to 95% by weight of unsaturated carboxylic acid alkyl ester monomer, 0 to 50% by weight of vinyl cyanide monomer, and 0 to 50% by weight of another monomer copolymerizable with these monomers, the acid value of the acetone soluble resin component being 0.01 to 1 mgKOH/g, the method comprising melt-blending 10 to 95 parts by weight of a copolymer (A) obtained by polymerizing a vinyl monomer mixture (a), and 90 to 5% by weight of a graft copolymer (B) obtained by graft-polymerizing a vinyl monomer mixture (c) in the presence of a rubber polymer (b), the vinyl monomer mixtures (a) and (c) each being independently a monomer mixture comprising 5 to 70% by weight of (a1) aromatic vinyl monomer, 30 to 95% by weight of (a2) unsaturated carboxylic acid alkyl ester monomer, 0 to 50% by weight

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of (a3) vinyl cyanide monomer, and 0 to 50% by weight of (a4) another monomer copolymerizable with these monomers, and the graft copolymer (B) containing 0.1 to 5% by weight of an emulsifier.

23. (new) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition, comprising mixing in a melt state 90 to 5 parts by weight of a graft copolymer (B), obtained by graft-polymerizing a vinyl monomer mixture (c) with a rubber polymer, with 10 to 95 parts by weight of a copolymer (A) obtained by continuous bulk polymerization or continuous solution polymerization of a vinyl monomer mixture (a), the vinyl monomer mixtures (a) and (c) each being independently a monomer mixture comprising 5 to 70% by weight of (a1) aromatic vinyl monomer, 30 to 95% by weight of (a2) unsaturated carboxylic acid alkyl ester monomer, 0 to 50% by weight of (a3) vinyl cyanide monomer, and 0 to 50% by weight of (a4) another monomer copolymerizable with these monomers, and the graft copolymer (B) containing 0.1 to 30% by weight of a pelletized thermoplastic resin (C) added and mixed therewith in a melt or semi-melt state, and which is a part or the whole of the resin composition or the copolymer (A) obtained in the



continuous bulk polymerization or continuous solution polymerization of vinyl monomer mixture (a).

24. (new) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition, which is a styrene copolymer reinforced with a rubber polymer, and has an acetone soluble resin component having a monomer composition comprising 5 to 70% by weight of aromatic vinyl monomer, 30 to 95% by weight of unsaturated carboxylic acid alkyl ester monomer, 0 to 50% by weight of vinyl cyanide monomer, and 0 to 50% by weight of another monomer copolymerizable with these monomers, the acid value of the acetone soluble resin component being 0.01 to 1 mgKOH/g, the method comprising melt-blending 10 to 95 parts by weight of a copolymer (A) obtained by continuous bulk polymerization or continuous solution polymerization of a vinyl monomer mixture (a), and 90 to 5% by weight of graft copolymer (B) obtained by graft-polymerizing a vinyl monomer mixture (c) in the presence of a rubber polymer (b), the vinyl monomer mixtures (a) and (c) each being independently a monomer mixture comprising 5 to 70% by weight of (a1) aromatic vinyl monomer, 30 to 95% by weight of (a2)

unsaturated carboxylic acid alkyl ester monomer, 0 to 50% by weight of (a3) vinyl cyanide monomer, and 0 to 50% by weight of (a4) another monomer copolymerizable with these monomers wherein 0.1 to 5% by weight of emulsifier is contained in the graft copolymer (B).

25. (new) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition according to Claim 24, further comprising a step of removing residual monomer from the copolymer (A) following the continuous bulk polymerization or continuous solution polymerization of the vinyl monomer mixture (a), and wherein the graft copolymer (B) is added to the copolymer (A) in a melt state in the course of the step of removing residual monomer from the copolymer (A) or after the step of removing residual monomer from the copolymer (A).

26. (new) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition according to Claim 24, wherein during melt blending, the graft copolymer (B) has a moisture content of 0.1% or more by weight and less than 5% by weight.

27. (new) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition according to Claim 25, wherein the graft copolymer (B) is added to the copolymer (A) when an amount of the residual monomer in the copolymer (A) is 10% by weight or less.

28. (new) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition according to Claim 27, wherein assuming that the actual volume of a melt-blending portion of an apparatus, in which the copolymer (A) and the graft copolymer (B) are transferred while being melt-blended, is  $V$  ( $m^3$ ), the temperature is  $T$  ( $^{\circ}C$ ), and the moving velocity of the resin composition finally discharged is  $v$  ( $kg/h$ ), the following conditions ① and ② are satisfied:

$4.60 \times 10^{-6} (m^3 \cdot h/kg) \leq V/v \leq 11.50 \times 10^{-6} (m^3 \cdot h/kg) \quad \dots \text{①}$

$T \geq 230 \quad (^{\circ}C) \quad \dots \text{②}.$

29. (new) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition according to Claim 25, Claim